

# Middle Peninsula Coastal Technical Assistance Program

## Final Report

FY 2006 Task 44

Submitted by:  
Lewie Lawrence  
Director of Regional Planning  
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission



**Virginia Coastal Zone**  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



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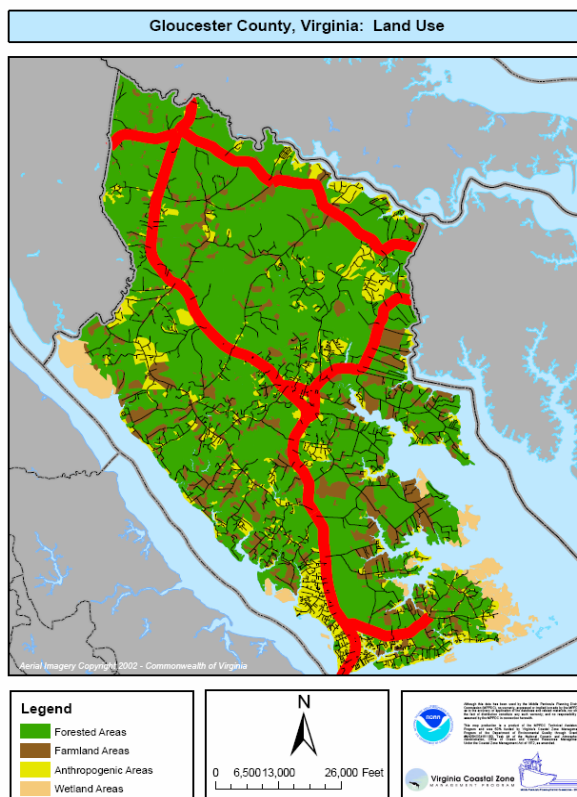
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## Product #1 Coastal Management Support

The nine local governments of the Middle Peninsula Planning District have relied on the MPPDC for quick and urgent GIS maps and technical assistance. Over the grant period, MPPDC staff advised member localities of the availability of technical assistance on CZMA issues and GIS. GIS technical assistance is provided by MPPDC staff by the assembly of various spatial data and illustration of data to support or counter the local issue at hand. The actual GIS map product(s) may be subjective or objective depending on the public policy issue at hand. GIS maps and analysis may be very important for developing and setting local policy or GIS maps and analysis may be needed to counter ineffective or outdated public policy. Staff produced well over 40 specialized GIS maps and analyses to assist with coastal zone management decision making within the Middle Peninsula.

For the current grant, the primary GIS technical assistance to member localities focused on the continuing issue of use conflict, water supply planning, transportation and land use as well as technical GIS analysis. Of note was the GIS analysis of anthropogenic and forested areas within the transitioning rural-suburban Gloucester County (see example map below titled Gloucester County, Virginia: Land Use). This map product was used in the development of the Gloucester County Comprehensive Plan and illustrates the abundance of a “green foot print” remaining in the locality, absent of planning tools such as parcels and buildings. This analysis required staff to assess land cover and anthropogenic footprints and illustrate both in a graphic a GIS format.



Additional assistance focused on the provision of broadband high speed internet services, storm water regulations, and substantive discussion on the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Cleanup Plan and impact to local government. MPPDC staff also provided local governments zoning research and technical research assistance as determined by local government.

A selection of fourteen GIS mapping examples follows. Mapping assistance was provided to elected officials and staff needing to asses various development proposals, traffic analysis and census maps to assist with transportation and land use planning, and many other special purpose maps. Due to the on-the-spot need for GIS assistance, some map products illustrated were developed on the fly for instantaneous use by elected officials. Some map products become a one-time product. For example, PDC staff sometimes receives GIS assistance requests at Commission meetings, where they will then assemble current data and product a map on the fly. Public policy discussion may ensue using the map product as a discussion point, and depending on the direction of the public policy discussion, the GIS map may be discarded. Even though the map did not contain a logo or disclaimer, the importance of providing GIS analysis on the fly cannot be discounted. Having GIS technical services is a fundamental tool needed to assist with the development of rural coastal zone management public policy.

## **Product #2 Local Planning Support**

In total, MPPDC staff convened 18 monthly meetings of local planners and local government administrators over the course of the grant. The local planners and local government administrator meetings are held to afford highest level staff the opportunity to discuss issues amongst their own peer group. Generally, MPPDC staff prepares background info and coordinates speakers for local planners and local government administrators meetings when issues are suggested in advance by either the planners or the government administrators. Local staff utilizes the meetings as a sounding board and spring board to other issues and topics relevant to coastal zone management. Due to the complexity of community development issues, sister agencies such as the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and the Middle Peninsula Three Rivers Health District, utilize the existing local planning support network to provide training and education on critical issues. The value to coastal zone management lies in creating a venue and holding meetings that are “push style”, meaning a public policy issue is present, and MPPDC staff push solutions and dialog to assist local governments. The intention of local planning support coordination is not primarily outcome based solutions, but access to high level discussion and knowledge transfer.

### Local Planning Coordination

MPPDC staff convened 6 meetings with local government level planners and administrators on 10/18/06, 12/20/06, 1/17/07, 3/21/07, 5/16/07, and 8/15/07 on topics related to coastal zone management issues. One meeting was devoted to the tracking and discussion of Virginia General Assembly Bills and Resolutions under consideration during the 2007 Session, and the relations to coastal zone management and local land use and policy implications. The May meeting was devoted to discussion of wireless broadband planning, HB 3203 (Urban Development Areas), the VAPA Symposium, and conversion of working waterfronts. The August meeting was devoted to discussion of the transportation bill and enhancement program.

### Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority

MPPDC staff convened 7 meetings of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) on 10/13/06, 12/8/06, 2/9/07, 4/13/07, 6/8/07, and 8/13/07. Coordination of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) was delegated to the NOAA Fellow during the second half of the grant year. MPPDC staff, however, continued to supervise the Fellow and participate in meetings and activities of the MPCBPAA.

### Special Training Sessions

MPPDC staff convened 5 special training sessions for regional officials and local staff during the grant period.

MPPDC staff convened two special training sessions on the Middle Peninsula Nutrient Compliance Plan (10/13/06 and 9/14/07). Dr Jim Pyne, Chief Manager of the Hampton

Roads Sanitation District Small Communities Division was the guest speaker.

MPPDC staff convened a special training session on environmental health and community development within the Middle Peninsula. (1/24/07 - Flu Pandemic Preparedness, special speaker Dr Thomas Irungu, Director Three Rivers Health District)

MPPDC staff convened a special training session on the emerging issues of conversion of working waterfronts (5/26/07). The session focused on land use and zoning tools utilized in coastal states. Speaker- Lewie Lawrence, PAA staff.

MPPDC staff convened a special education session on local community development opportunities from the USDA Rural Development Program (6/27/07). Virginia Rural Development Director Ellen Davis spoke.

### **Staff Report**

Another valuable tool utilized in the local planning support program is a monthly log (staff report) of ongoing local planning support to member localities and the general public. The log of support is reviewed monthly by MPPDC Commissioners, who are elected and appointed officials. The staff report is reviewed and discussed monthly by 27 commissioners. The report is used as a secondary tool to continue to educate local officials on issues of concern. MPPDC staff utilizes several methods for information exchange to keep elected officials informed.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program October 2006**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the PDC and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Discussed various GIS techniques for mapping land cover/land use for the Gloucester County Planning Department to make use of.
- Researched census data for Mathews County Sheriffs office for years 2001-2006.
- Completed SFY 07 State Grants to Nonstate Entities Payment Application to request release of funds (\$20,000) from the General Assembly SGNE Program. This financial assistance will be used for capital outlay within participating MPCBPAA members' jurisdictions.
- Consulted with Andy Lacatell, The Nature Conservancy, concerning rental property rates within the Dragon Run Watershed.
- Discussed GIS aerial mapping needs related to conservation lands within Essex County with Philip Reed, Middle Peninsula Land Trust.

- Provided land acreage information to Sally Mills, private consultant, working on a Middle Peninsula Land Trust information marketing piece.
- Discussed several match issues related to project close out with Shep Moon, Virginia Coastal Program.
- Convened the October Local Planners meeting. Agenda item included a discussion on stormwater regulation changes. Matt Criblez, Department of Conservation and Recreation, attended and answered questions.
- Attended GIS component of Tidal Shoreline workshop at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Nov 2006**

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- Discussed evacuation routing issues and GIS mapping needs with Robert Lawrence, Assisted Living Facility Manager Autumn Care, located in Suffolk. Provided Mr. Lawrence with the contact information for Tammy Karlgarard, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Emergency Planner.
- Discussed Capt. John Smith capture route mapping needs with Jennifer Wampler, DCR. Attended a meeting to discuss a conceptual plan for the John Smith Capture Route driving trail project sponsored by DCR.
- Discussed well head protection grant program opportunities with Georgette Hurley, Gloucester County Assistant County Administrator.
- Provided a Middlesex County resident with copies of old USGS topographic quad maps of the Healey Dam area.
- Provided Billy Mills, Middle Peninsula Land Trust, with USGS topographic quad maps of the Walkerton area for use in a grant application.
- Consulted with Mark Mansfield, US Army Corp of Engineers, concerning possible historic public works project for the Healey Dam in Middlesex County.
- Discussed several VDEM mitigation grant opportunities with Eileen Tarr, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, related to a Mathews County Board of Supervisors request for information.

## **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Dec 2006**

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- Started digitizing Gloucester County to construct for them a map showing the land uses across the county and where they were located. By December 19<sup>th</sup> half the project will be completed. Will be completed with entire map project by the end of December 2006.
- Spoke with Jo Ann Harfst of Mathews Social Services about maps she has requested showing the Middle Peninsula. The school boards across 5 jurisdictions in the Middle Peninsula are collaborating to develop a regional vocational/technical center. The maps requested will assist them in choosing the best location.
- Discussed December Local Planner's agenda with Pat Tyrell, Tidewater RC&D. Mrs. Tyrell requested to speak with the local planners concerning conservation easements and continuing education opportunities for local staff.
- Discussed Geographic Information System (GIS) technical issues with GIS staff of Mathews County. Issues discussed included base projection, digital parcel coverage and aerial imagery issues.
- Consulted with a Middlesex County resident concerning Healy Mill Dam ownership issue.
- Met with several Gloucester County Planning staff to review Silviculture, Agriculture, and Anthropogenic mapping needs of Gloucester County.
- Attended the Chesapeake Bay Licenses Committee meeting to review applications requesting funding assistance.
- Convened the December meeting of the Local Planners Group. Discussed conservation planning, Water Use Conflict, and near shore multi jurisdictional issues.
- Contacted Mark Mansfield, Army Corps of Engineers, concerning historic public works projects within the Middle Peninsula. A Middlesex County resident requested information related to dams and public works projects.
- Provided Planning Department staff in Mathews County with on-site GIS technical assistance. Reviewed GIS system design and issues recommendations for long term strategic planning.



- Consulted with Billy Mills, Middle Peninsula Land Trust (MPLT), concerning a pending grant award from the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Committee. Also discussed ongoing MPLT land use planning assistance to local governments.
- Discussed Comprehensive Plan assistance requests with Carlton Revere, MPPDC Vice Chairman, of Middlesex County.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program January 2007**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the PDC and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Participated in Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) two-hour webcast on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Compiled and posted PAA packets on website.
- Completed digitizing Gloucester County to construct a map showing the land uses across the county and where they were located. The map shows four different land areas and where they are located across the county.
- Provided a copy of the Town of Tappahannock's Comprehensive Plan 2006 Updated Draft version to Melissa Phillips, Vice President of Property Development for Bay Aging. Ms. Phillips was interested in a copy of the plan for the purpose of locating available land in Essex County for a retirement community.
- Prepared and sent aerial images of two locations in Essex County to Mr. Norman Long, Real Estate Appraiser and Consultant in Richmond County, Virginia. He requested the aerial imagery in order to prepare appraisals on several Essex County tracts.
- Provided GIS technical assistance to a Board of Supervisors member from Gloucester County.
- Discussed zoning and economic development issue with Robin Worth, King and Queen County Director of Economic Development.
- Discussed and established a date to review the Coastal Experience Website with staff from the Virginia Coastal Program.
- Participated in the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) web conference to review and better understand the intent of the NEMO program.

- Consulted with Todd Janeski, Coastal Non-point Program Coordinator, concerning a pending proposal submitted by the MPPDC coastal technical assistance program to develop a 3D model of overlapping shoreline jurisdiction.
- Attended the Local Government Administrators meeting held at MPPDC. Discussed pending legislation and potential impacts to local government.
- Attended the Habitat Management Committee meeting held at Virginia Marine Resource Commission in Newport News to discuss the evolving issue of House Barges and consumption of public space.
- Provided Dr. Jim Payne Chief Manager of the Small Communities Division Hampton Roads Sanitation Division, census and demographic data on the Middle Peninsula.
- Discussed Water Use Planning and Smurfit Stone's interest in participating in a regional water use consumptions plan. Consulted with Tom Roberts, Smurfit Stone Container Corporation.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Feb2007**

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- Completed digitizing Gloucester County to construct a map showing the land uses across the county and where they were located. The map shows four different land areas and where they are located across the county.
- Provided Mr. Gary Allen of Essex County with two maps of the Bray's Fork Intersection. The maps will be used to illustrate good locations for possible retail business prospects.
- Discussed land conservation issues related to Essex County with Megan Gallagher, Land Conservation Specialist assisting the Essex County Countryside Alliance. Responded to Ms. Gallagher's request for mapping assistance of protected parcels in Essex County.
- Provided Billy Mills, Real-Estate Agent with Twinn Rivers Real Estate, with a GIS map of several Mathews County parcels under consideration by a local developer for a Planned Unit Development.
- Consulted with Paul Billings, Department of Conservation and Recreation, concerning the need for GIS maps of the new state park in Gloucester County. Mr. Billings is scheduled to meet with PDC staff to discuss GIS needs.

- Attended a special meeting at the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program office in Richmond to discuss final project deliverables and to showcase the Coastal Experience Website

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program March 2007**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the PDC and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Assisted reporter Joan McBride from the Rappahannock Record to locate housing data for Middlesex County, Virginia.
- Requested and received monthly building reports for Middlesex County from Mr. David Selph, Building Official for the Middlesex County Department of Planning and Community Development.
- Discussed map preparation with Mr. Paul Billings about creating a series of maps of the new state park area in Gloucester County that illustrates where the National Wetlands Inventory boundaries are in relation to the park.
- Attended the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research (CBNEERS) reserve meeting at VIMS. Discussed various program and services CBNEERS could consider delivering to local planning staff and the general public.
- Researched subdivision ordinances for setback requirements for mobile homes for Gary Allen, Essex County Administrator.
- Discussed water supply planning requirements with Gary Allen Essex County Administrator.
- Discussed zoning principles and practices with a Mathews County concerned citizen.
- Provided Jim Obrien, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Consultant, with a copy of the 1973 Gloucester County aerial imagery for a project underway in Gloucester County.
- Advised local planners of a GIS training opportunity offered by Dennis Roose, President of Edge Tech GIS.
- Consulted with Charles Ingram, Mathews County Board of Supervisors, and Marylyn Overstreet, Mathews County Main Street, related to a request to attend the Mathews County Main Street Committee meeting to review funding opportunities and to discuss other community development issues.

- Coordinate with Virginia Witmer, Coastal Program Outreach Coordinator, concerning participation on the 2007 Coastal Partners Workshop.
- Consulted with Joe Schumacher of Representative JoAnn Davis' Office concerning the remapping of Coastal Barrier Resource Areas and the Department of Fish and Wildlife's responsibility to update FEMA flood maps.
- Converted the March local planners meeting. Agenda items included a review of General Assembly bills, discussion of local government jurisdictions within the riparian zone, and other local planning issues.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program April 2007**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the PDC and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Submitted Semi-annual Reimbursement Request to Virginia CZM Program.
- Discussed the need for labor market data with Beth Nite Brown, Director of Career Technical Services Middlesex County Schools system. Provided requested labor market data.
- Attended a meeting with the Mathews County Main Street committee to discuss main street improvements and potential funding sources.
- Consulted with Hibak Hersi, VDEM concerning local efforts to implement the Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan recommendations. The Middle Peninsula Natural Disaster mitigation plan was a requirement of the Disaster Act of 2000.
- Discussed several potential NEMO (Nonpoint source Education for Municipal Officials) projects for Mathews County with Todd Janeski, DCR Nonpoint program. Discussion related to a meeting with the Mathews Main Street Committee and storm water issues.
- Provided assistant to Gary Allen Essex County Administrator looking for information related to request for e911 data from mortgage companies, real-estate closing attorneys and appraisers.
- Discussed various grant programs currently available to assist Neal Barber, Town of West Point economic Development Director.
- Discussed hazard planning issues with Chris Perez, Gloucester County intern developing a flood plain management plan.

- Discussed ESRI technical issues with Edna Williams, ESRI Customer Support Supervisor.
- Consulted with Tony Watkinson, VMRC concerning submerged lands conference and relations to Use Conflict. Agreed to participate in the VMRC Submerged Lands conference.
- Discussed Essex County protected lands with Megan Gallagher, Land Protection Specialist working with the Essex County Country Side Alliance.
- Provided Census housing and rental information to a citizen from the City of Richmond.
- Discussed Broadband telecommunications services and special general assembly funding specific to the MP, NN, and the Easter Shore with Bill Pruitt, PDC Consultant Troutman Sanders LLP.
- Provided Lewis filling, Urbana Town Manager with GIS maps illustrating the boundary of Urbana Town limits.
- Corresponded with Mr. Paul Billings at the Department of Conservation and Recreation about the maps the MPPDC are creating for him.
- Sent list of Transportation Enhancement grants that are available to apply for during the next year to Mr. Neal Barber, Economic Development Director for the Town of West Point.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program May 2007**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the PDC and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Attended bi-annual meeting of Tidewater RC & D. Agenda items included Conservation Awards Program and three companies that were nominated by the MPPDC won awards. The companies are Ball Lumber Company, VA Biodiesel Refinery LLC, and Lamb Exterminating Service.
- Sent Steve Whiteway, Mathews County Administrator, watershed information for Mathews County.
- Discussed map sizes with Paul Billings, Department of Conservation and Recreation, for maps he requested of the new state park in Gloucester County.

- Discussed GIS mapping assistance related to Tour De Chesapeake with Liz Whitley and Sharon Williams, Mathews County Planning Department, and Steve Whiteway Mathews County Administrator.
- Consulted with Bill Pruitt, MPPDC Lobbyist-Troutman Sanders, concerning various broadband Wireless initiatives and grant funding opportunities for the Middle Peninsula localities.
- Consulted with Joe Schumacher, District Director of Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis's office, concerning working water preservation initiatives.
- Discussed various working waterfront preservation issues with Ryck Lydecker, Vice President in Charge of Boat Us Governmental Affairs.
- Discussed various working waterfront preservation issues with Tom Murray, Marine Economist Virginia Institute of Marine Science-Virginia Sea Grant.
- Provided a King and Queen absentee land owner with information related to land value and real-estate trends within the Middle Peninsula.
- Provided Trent Funkhouser, Town Manager of West Point, with a hydrologic unit map of the Town.
- Provided Lewis Filling, Town Manager for Urbanna, with GIS maps illustrating town boundaries overlaid on the Virginia Base Map aerial coverage.
- Discussed Intensely Developed Area redevelopment issues with Phil Friday, Urbanna Planning Commission.
- Discussed septic pump out funding opportunities with Gary Allen, Essex County Administrator, and Scott Rea, Gloucester County Environmental Programs Code Compliance office.
- Provided Steve Rykal, Virginia Department of Health, with a GIS map of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula area.
- Attended the Working Waterfronts 2007 Symposium held in Norfolk, Virginia. Presented a talk on the provision of public access within a local government framework.
- MPPDC Chairman Mo Lynch received the Boat US National award for Recreational Boating Access Award presented to the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission for commitment to boating access and providing a model for others to follow at the Waterfronts 2007 Symposium held in Norfolk Virginia.

## **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program June 2007**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the Planning District Commission and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Completed maps for Mr. Paul Billings, District II Resource Specialist with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of State Parks in Westmoreland County, illustrating the aerial imagery, national wetland inventory, and topography of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's new state park property located in Gloucester County, Virginia. Mr. Billings will be using the maps to support a resource management plan he is completing for the property.
- Received an email from Mr. Billings thanking the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission Staff for the beautiful work done on the maps that were delivered. He also thanked Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission staff for the assistance rendered toward completion of the Resource Management Plan for the Gloucester County State Park.
- Discussed Geographic Information System mapping needs with Mathews County resident Mimi Ulsaker in need of a map illustrating stream boat landings along the Rappahannock and the Mobjack.
- Discussed various Chesapeake Bay Act issues with Lewis Filling, Urbanna Town Manager, and Steve Hollberg, Urbanna Town Council Member.
- Provided Robbie Biggs, Bay Aging, census and demographic analysis of Gloucester County for use in an upcoming grant application.
- Received a request from Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy, Ph.D., Great Lakes Ecosystem Extension Specialist Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office, and Dr. Janet Nestlerode, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf Ecology Division, to speak at the Estuarine Research Federation 2007 Conference to be held in Providence, Rhode Island. Speaking topic is: *Narrowing the Gap between Science and Policy to Effectively Enable Management: How do We Know it's Working?*
- Discussed land ownership within the Dragon with Gary Tuggle of Melbourne Florida. Mr. Tuggle is doing research on the Tuggle family and while researching on the Internet, discovered the Dragon Run Specialized Area Management Program and had questions about land ownership within the Dragon.

- Consulted with Stephen Hollberg, Urbanna Town Council, concerning several coastal zone management act issues that included dredging, public access, and water front development.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program July 2007**

*Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides ongoing support to member localities of the Planning District Commission and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.*

- Discussed Broadband Initiative offered by the Department of Housing and Community Development with Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission Executive Director Dan Kavanagh.
- Modified the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce logo to include an outline of Middlesex County for the Middle Peninsula Business Development Partnership.
- Provided Sally Mills, Executive Director for the Middle Peninsula Land Trust, with quality of life digital images of the Middle Peninsula.
- Discussed and researched land use taxation enabling legislation for an Essex County resident.
- Produced a Geographical Information System map illustrating land cover and United States Geological Survey blue lines on a Mathews County parcel for Bay Aging staff.
- Consulted with Chip Neikerk, Virginia Marine Resource Commission, concerning various wetland mitigation banking issues and the possible use of Public Access Authority holdings as banking sites.
- Discussed the utility of using the Public Access Authority as a tool for administering a local wetlands bank to assist participating member locals. Received support from County Administrators to continue researching the feasibility of establishing a bank.
- Provided Carol Steele, Director of Parks and Recreation and Tourism of Gloucester County, with census age cohort data.
- Discussed Geographical Information System data coverage of King and Queen with private consultant Nancy Herman Thompson. Ms. Thompson is working on a local economic development project.



- Discussed various Geographical Information System data coverage with Sara Schulla, Virginia Department of Forestry, related to the possible locating of a Navy landing strip in King and Queen County.
- Discussed conservation easement recordation issues with a Middlesex County resident.
- Attended the Coastal Zone Management conference held in Portland Oregon. Attended sessions on Preservation of Working Waterfronts, Public Trust Doctrine and Progressive Coastal Zone Management Strategies. Discussed various Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program programmatic issues with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program administrators.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program August 2007**

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- Provided copies of 3 United States Geological Survey Topoquad maps to Phil Friday of Friday's Marine for the Town of Urbanna's planning department.
- Prepared information requested by Mathews County Director of Planning Sharon Williams and set up an appointment to deliver the materials.
- Created a map for Pat Tyrrell, Tidewater RC &D, to use in the 2007 Down on the Farm brochure.
- Consulted with May Sligh, Department of Conservation and Recreation Tappahannock office, concerning the upcoming York and Small Coastal basins meeting.
- Researched code of Virginia and issued a request for more information to local attorneys requesting information on Code Section 14.1-133.2
- Contacted Paul Berge, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, concerning Notice of Regulatory Intent for Water Quality Discharge and Aquaculture. The proposed regulations create a new regulatory blanket limiting the level of OSDS discharge associated with residential development in an effort to protect the economic importance of aquaculture to the local economy if the Eastern Shore.
- Attended the Coastal Zone Management Conference held in Portland, Oregon. Attended session on coastal disaster planning and hurricane mitigation, working

waterfronts, use conflicts, economics of coastal economies, Coastal Estuarine Land Protection, and other sessions specific to the Middle Peninsula issues.

- Met with the Wendy Larimer, Clean Marina Coordinator for Virginia. Discussed land use and local government planning practices as they relate to Marina development.
- Met with Trent Funkhouser, West Point Town Manager, Walt Feurer, Director of Public Works, and Neal Barber, Director of Economic Development to review, evaluate and discuss the Town's GIS system.
- Met with Skip Styles, Wetlands Watch. Discussed various federal, state, and local planning issues associated with sea level rise.

### **Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Sept 2007**

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- Submitted a nomination for Margaret "Prue" Davis to the Citizen's Planning Education Association of Virginia (CPEAV) to be recognized with a Citizen's Award at the Citizen's Planning Education Association of Virginia's Annual Awards Program for "all of her efforts, contributions and leadership with the Dragon Run Watershed Special Area Management Plan: Dragon Run Steering Committee." Awards will be presented at the CPEAV 2007 Annual Conference on October 8, 2007 at an Awards Banquet at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Discussed Dragon Run Day logistics and mapping issues with Sara Stamp, Dragon Run SAMP Coordinator.
- Consulted with Carol Steele, Director of Gloucester County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, concerning recreation standards related to access management issues at county facilities.
- Discussed various economic development and aerial imagery issues with Robin Worth, King and Queen County Economic Development Director.
- Participated on the 2007 Virginia Coastal Program Conference Planning Committee conference call. Discussed various session topics and other meeting logistic issues.
- Consulted with Gloucester County Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Westfall concerning the concept of establishing a wetlands mitigation bank on

parcels in lower Guinea acquired by Gloucester County under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation.

- Received a list of various parcels acquired by Gloucester County under the Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout program from Bill Whitley, Gloucester County Administrator. Discussed the concept of establishing a wetlands mitigation bank with Mr. Whitley.
- Consulted with Virginia Department of Emergency Management Program Manager Deborah Mills concerning the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout parcels in Gloucester County for use as a wetlands mitigation bank. Ms. Mills advised this use is constant with the intention of the open space requirements under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Program, but to advise Virginia Department of Emergency Management of any progression towards such goal.
- Attended the Department of Environmental Quality sponsored Air, Water, and Waste Board consolidation meeting held at the Piedmont Department of Environmental Quality office. Discussed various issues and positions of the business and environmental perspectives.
- Set a meeting date with Scott Rae, Gloucester County Director of Environmental Programs; Pam Mason, Wetland Scientist Virginia Institute of Marine Science; and Chip Neikerk of the Virginia Marine Resource Commission to review and evaluate Gloucester County's Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout sites.
- Contracted with Middlesex Farms Supply for eight access gates for use on the new Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program acquisition sites. Gates will be used to manage access during the development of site management plans.
- Contacted the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center and advise issuance of a check for Browne Tract maintenance and site cleanup.
- Polled the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association's list serve concerning localities across the state phasing out post 1976 mobile homes and establishing a new base date post 1976.

## Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – Wetlands Mitigation

MPPDC staff continues to work with member localities and the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority to explore the possible nexus between VMRC's wetlands compensation/mitigation policy and the use of the MPCBPAA to assist local governments with developing innovative management solutions for the creation of a mitigation bank. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) recently promulgated a Mitigation-Compensation policy to address the net loss of wetlands due to construction and repair projects (piers, bulkheads, riprap etc). As a first step to understanding the nexus between VMRC's wetlands compensation/mitigation policy and the use of the MPCBPAA as a delivery mechanism, MPPDC staff consulted with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, staff from FEMA, and the Gloucester County Administrator about using FEMA acquired flood mitigation properties (now owned by Gloucester County). Both agreed to have the PAA visit potential sites with a team of representatives from VMRC, VIMS, and Gloucester County Environmental programs to assess and rank each site for Wetlands Bank conversion. The next step in the process after the close of this grant (September 30, 2007) will be to transfer some of the fee simple FEMA sites to the PAA. The PAA will then initiate a project concept and feasibility study for design and engineering services.

Table of potential mitigation sites for conversion to a wetlands bank

A	B	C	D	E
2	3	4	Potential Mitigation Banke Site Assesment Score	
Address	Gloucester County /Current Owner	Tax Map	Acres	1 Good Conversion site- 2 Moderate- 3 Poor
2922 Horse Point Road	Gloucester County	53-59	2.000	na (could not locate)
9366 Guinea Road	Gloucester County	52-220	5.900	3
<b>10412 Maryus Road</b>	<b>Gloucester County</b>	<b>53-333</b>	<b>35.970</b>	<b>1</b>
3173 Kings Creek Road	Gloucester County	47-199A	0.866	3
2433 Maundys Creek Road	Gloucester County	53-310	7.170	2.5
10483 Maryus Road	Gloucester County	53-71	0.3106	3
2151 Jenkins Neck Road	Gloucester County	53-158	0.500	3
10623 Heron Point Road	Gloucester County	53-254F	0.6979	2.5
<b>10124 Maryus Road</b>	<b>Gloucester County</b>	<b>53-286</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2164 Jenkins Neck Road</b>	<b>Gloucester County</b>	<b>53-131</b>	<b>4.020</b>	<b>1</b>
2060 Adlea Lane	Gloucester County	53-225	1.500	3

Map of potential mitigation sites for conversion to a wetland bank.



**Product #4 Browne Tract and additional CELCP maintenance and management:**

MPPDC participates in the NOAA Coastal Service Center Fellowship program. Jacqueline L. Shapo has coordinated the affairs for the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA) as a NOAA Fellow. Over the last 12 months Jacquie has been introduced to and now has a working knowledge of Coastal Zone Management principles and practices, and understands the financial activities of the PAA and the CELC Program. Ms. Shapo has successfully integrated into a professional staff person who understands CZ management. Product #4 has been articulated below in a white paper authored by Ms. Shapo. The paper details the work of the PAA and the Browne Tract, as well as, the CELC Program under the direction of Ms. Shapo.

## ADDRESSING SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC ACCESS IN THE VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE

*Jacqueline L. Shapo, NOAA Coastal Services Center, Environmental Careers Organization, Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority*

Keywords: coastal zone, conservation, Dragon Run Watershed, ecosystem management, land acquisition, multi-use conflict, Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, public access, sustainable

### INTRODUCTION

In the tremendously diverse area of Virginia's coastal zone, only 1% of the shoreline is publicly owned. Providing residents and state visitors with sufficient access to natural resources is, therefore, quite challenging. It is important not only to offer points of access through public land ownership, but also to give the public meaningful coastal experiences that draw upon the Commonwealth's maritime heritage and natural wonder. The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, continues its mission to address sustainable public access within the Middle Peninsula and Virginia coastal zone through a number of projects. These include the identification and acquisition of land, such as that within the Dragon Run Watershed, that can be secured for use by the general public; development of wildlife and habitat management plans that support long-term, passive public access, resource conservation and protection, and traditional uses (i.e., forestry and hunting); the management of user conflicts within existing public access sites; and procurement of sustainable funding to permit MPCBPAA activities. Additionally, through collaborative efforts with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation – Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division, the MPCBPAA is making strides to enhance public access information needs and develop effective marketing campaigns that utilize interpretive and regulatory signage to foster local community appreciation for and responsible access to the coastal environment.

### BACKGROUND

In 2003, the Virginia General Assembly approved House Bill 619, creating the institutional framework for Middle Peninsula local governments to address public access on a regional basis and enabling the creation of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA or PAA). Composed of elected officials and local government administrators from five counties and two towns, the MPCBPAA is a political subdivision that serves the public access needs of the encompassed communities along more than 1000 square miles of the Virginia coastal zone. The PAA was enabled to identify, acquire, and manage water access opportunities that could be used by the general public for passive and active activities. It frequently partners with state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens to promote land acquisition and the enhancement of public access in the Middle Peninsula region. Since its inception, the MPCBPAA has leveraged more than \$2.5 million for public access acquisitions and improvements. The PAA has incorporated such innovative measures as the utilization of local inmates for construction and maintenance of public



access projects; leveraging local disability services boards to enhance disabled features in PAA-managed areas; production of educational brochures about the PAA and its acquisitions; rebuilding of public infrastructure after catastrophic hurricane events; and coordinating with other local entities to maximize conservation efforts in sensitive areas. The MPCBPAA recognizes that shorelines are high priority natural areas. As the Middle Peninsula region becomes more densely populated and development along the waterfront intensifies, it is critical that localities conserve public access sites for all types of recreational activities, including fishing, birding, hunting, boating, picnicking, and sightseeing. These recreational activities associated with Chesapeake Bay rivers, embayments, tidal creeks, marshes, lakes, and ponds are vital to the citizens, economy, and natural maritime heritage of the Commonwealth. Sustainability and expansion of access sites across the region is critical due to the scarcity of prime access sites and the time required to develop new sites. The MPCBPAA is continuing its efforts to acquire and manage fee simple or public access rights on small, medium, and large parcels of land, thus creating or enhancing access points to Middle Peninsula waterways. Access is primarily intended for general public use and for commercial purposes, provided that such commercial activities do not exclude other uses by the public.

## PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION, CONSERVATION, AND RESTORATION

### The Browne Tract

Regarded as the region's only multi-use public access facility, the Browne Tract is a 274-acre parcel of land straddling Essex and King & Queen counties in the Dragon Run Watershed. It has approximately 7,500 feet of water frontage on the Dragon Run Swamp and about 2,500 feet of roadside frontage on Route 604 in Essex County. The MPCBPAA owns and manages 137-acres of the tract as public open space; the residual 137-acres are managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry as a state forest. Currently, on its parcel, the PAA is implementing management strategies from the Browne Tract Management Plan, which provide for long-term, passive public access; natural resource protection; and sustainable, traditional uses, such as forestry and hunting. Additional activities incorporated on the tract include a variety of low-impact uses, such as biking, hiking, horseback riding, paddling, research forest practices, forest and habitat management, riparian buffer demonstration, environmental workshops, bird and reptile watching, fishing, and water quality monitoring.

Since purchasing the Browne Tract in 2003 with grants from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program at the Department of Environmental Quality, the MPCBPAA has installed two welcome/regulatory signs and two hunter registration signs at the entrances to the property, as well as a gravel parking lot designed to reduce soil erosion and create a buffer to nutrient and sediment overloading in the Dragon Run Swamp. Additionally, the PAA has instituted a work program for inmates in the regional jail. Wards of the state may now repay their debt to society by improving public access to Browne and throughout the Middle Peninsula. Work crews have successfully cut numerous nature trails, established a temporary trail demarcation system, and rebuilt the foot bridge and nature viewing area leading onto the parcel.

The PAA also has partnered with the Department of Conservation and Recreation – Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division to develop and install educational signage



throughout the Browne Tract. The interpretive and regulatory signage is designed to enhance public knowledge of Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act regulations, the function and importance of riparian buffers to tributary strategies and water quality protection, features of the surrounding ecosystem, and sustainable practices within the Dragon Run Watershed. As part of the MPCBPAA's work program, PAA staff will join inmates from the regional jail to establish the signs at appropriate locations throughout the property. In addition, as the number of visitors frequenting Browne increases, the MPCBPAA recognizes the potential for competitive uses, such as hunting, hiking, and horseback riding, to conflict. In order to accommodate different uses and minimize user conflicts, as per the Browne Tract Management Plan, the PAA is working to improve its trail demarcation system. Presently, there are a number of trails running throughout the parcel, which are marked with temporary flagging tape, making it difficult to differentiate one zone from another. A grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and labor provided by inmates at the regional jail will permit the MPCBPAA to begin trail demarcation enhancement in the summer of 2007, with the end goal of creating an effective, permanent demarcation system. The PAA will oversee the application of reassurance markers, also known as blazes, to trees along all trails of the Browne Tract. Blazes, which are visually unobtrusive and not prone to vandalism, are commonly used to define forest trails throughout the United States National Trail System. The MPCBPAA also is developing a site-specific Browne Tract Aquatic and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. The plan will identify, quantify, and characterize key and sensitive habitats and species present; address methods to enhance local and migratory wildlife populations; categorize extant invasive species and provide for management techniques to prevent their further spread; discuss creation of resource protection areas and "special management areas" to demonstrate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for timber harvesting; and present a plan for wildfire prevention and control. The habitat management plan may also discuss strategies to monitor and protect water and sediment quality through the implementation of agriculture and forestry BMPs, riparian buffer maintenance, erosion control, and measures to protect the land from encroaching development and habitat fragmentation.

#### CELCP Acquisitions

The MPCBPAA has targeted three additional properties, totaling 356 acres, for acquisition in the Dragon Run Watershed. These parcels, specifically Dragon Bridge, Jackson, and Haworth, will be acquired using federal grants from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), distributed through the Virginia CZM Program. The Dragon Bridge, Jackson, and Haworth Tracts will be linked with currently-protected neighboring forest and swamp lands in an effort to stabilize, protect, and expand the zone of conservation within the entire Dragon Run Watershed. As with the Browne Tract, the MPCBPAA will develop a long-term stewardship plan for each of the three CELCP properties, which incorporates passive public access to associated land and water-based ecosystems, habitat core conservation, and multiple, traditional land and water uses. An aquatic and wildlife habitat management plan, similar to that for the Browne Tract but specific to each CELCP property, will also be developed for the Dragon Bridge, Jackson, and Haworth Tracts.

### Shenk Property

In December 2006, the MPCBPAA received a gift of land from the Shenk family of Gloucester County. The 14-acre property, situated on the southwest branch of the Severn River, is best characterized as a large pine plantation encompassed by wetlands. It is conveniently located near a marina, campground, and several public access sites and will be managed by the MPCBPAA to permit passive public access, natural resource protection, and multiple, sustainable uses. A comprehensive management plan and site-specific aquatic and wildlife habitat management plan will be developed and implemented on the property.

### Landing and Road Ending Acquisitions Report

Pursuant to Virginia State Code 15.2-6600 through 15.2-6625, the MPCBPAA has been charged with the duty of identifying land owned by the Commonwealth or private holdings that could be secured for use by the general public as public access sites. The MPCBPAA is responsible for researching and establishing ownership of all identified sites, determining appropriate levels of public use, and developing mechanisms for transferring title of the sites to the PAA. The PAA also has been charged with determining which sites should be sold to it to advance its mission of enhancing public access in the coastal zone and to permit development of site-specific management plans. Funding from the Virginia CZM Program allowed the MPCBPAA to identify 300 roadways with public access capabilities running to or near waterways in the Middle Peninsula. Five properties representative of a broad range of landings in the Middle Peninsula were then investigated, specifically Roane Point Landing (Mathews County), Lower Guinea Landing (Gloucester), Ferry Landing (Essex), Chain Ferry Landing, and Byrd's Bridge Landing (King & Queen). The PAA commissioned Beale, Davidson, Etherington, & Morris, P.C. to develop a report entitled "Landing and Road Ending Acquisitions" that would identify ownership of each site, obstacles that could impede easement conveyance to or acquisition of the sites by the PAA, and solutions to those obstacles. The report was also designed to help guide future landing acquisition investigations. Recommendations presented in the report suggested that legislative action is required to permit the transfer of ownership interests in the five landings from the Virginia Department of Transportation to the MPCBPAA.

### New Point Lighthouse Restoration

Completed in 1805 and manned until 1919, the New Point Comfort Lighthouse is the third oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay and a National Historic Landmark. It is situated on an island at the southeastern tip of Mathews County, Virginia and is viewable from an observation deck at the southern tip of the mainland peninsula. In September of 2003, Hurricane Isabel damaged New Point Lighthouse, making public access difficult. Funding from the Virginia CZM Program permitted the MPCBPAA to make improvements to the lighthouse, including a new security door and a T-head access pier on the southwest side of the island. These efforts helped restore safe public access to this national landmark for sport fishing, historic tourism, and ecotourism.

### SUMMARY

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority was enabled to identify,

acquire, and manage water access opportunities in the Middle Peninsula and throughout the Virginia coastal zone that could be used by the general public for passive and active activities. Given the unique utility of the MPCBPAA, it and the projects it is involved in are continuously evolving, keeping the provision of public access at a high priority in the Middle Peninsula. Efforts by the MPCBPAA to promote land acquisition, conservation, and restoration; enhance sustainable public access to regional waterways; and encourage public appreciation for and education about the natural environment continue to be successful due to collaborations with and generous funding from a number of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens. The PAA recognizes that effective land management in the Dragon Run Watershed, Middle Peninsula, and the Virginia coastal zone requires development of site-specific, comprehensive stewardship and wildlife and habitat management plans. These plans are designed to conserve wildlife and habitat corridor connectivity and quality; maintain passive public access to associated land- and water-based ecosystems; support multiple, traditional land and water uses; and minimize conflicts among competitive uses.

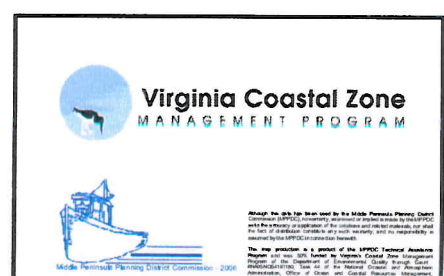
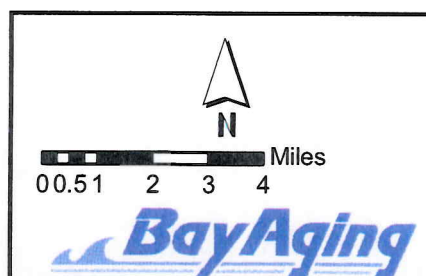
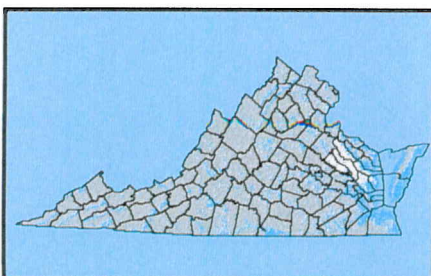
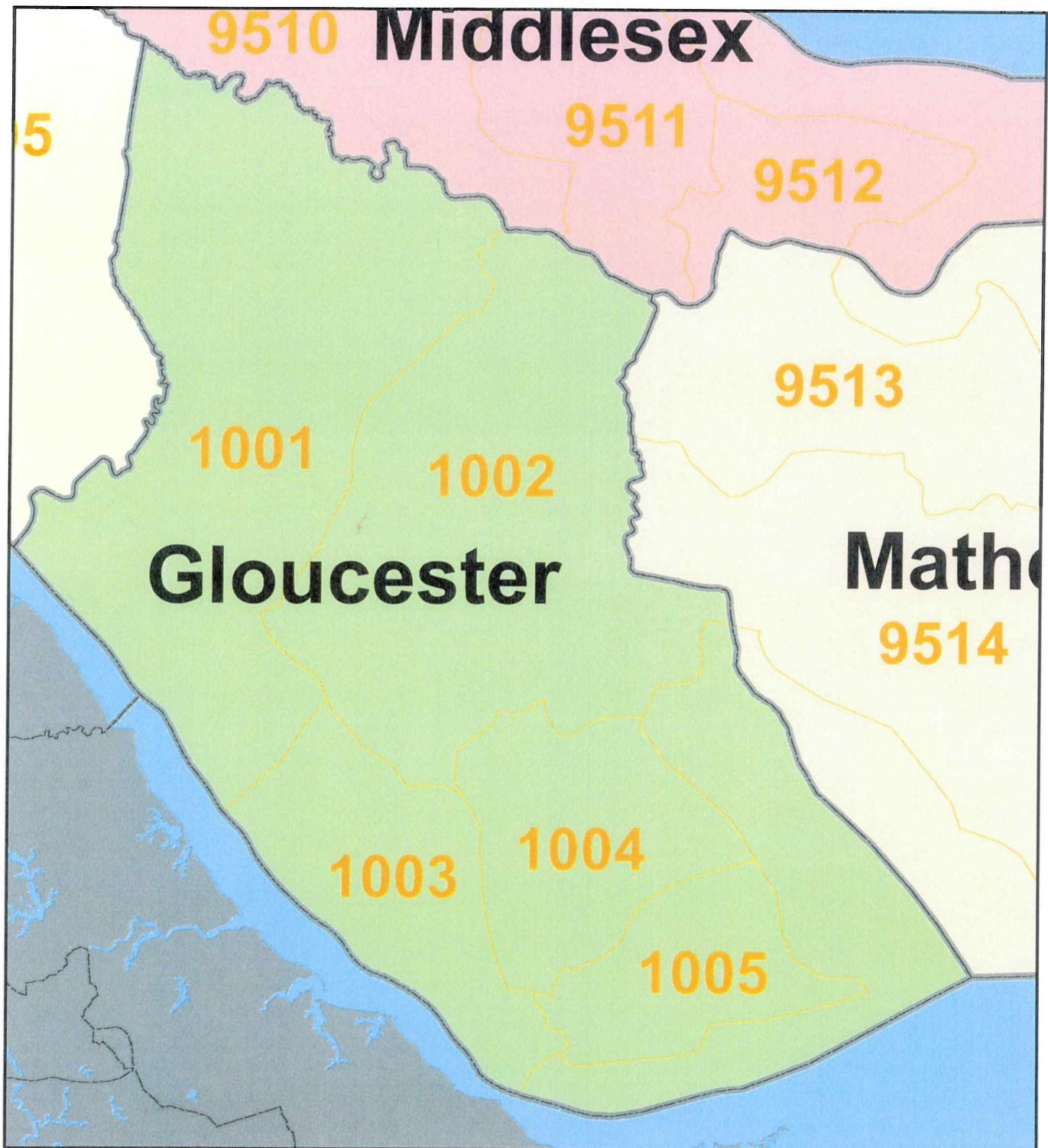
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to my mentors, Lewis Lawrence and Laura McKay, Margaret Vanderwilt, the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality, NOAA Coastal Services Center, and the Environmental Careers Organization. Support for public land acquisition, conservation, and restoration projects was provided by the Virginia CZM Program, CELCP, the Virginia General Assembly, the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center, Allied Waste Services, King & Queen Sanitary Landfill, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation – Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division.

## **APPENDIX**

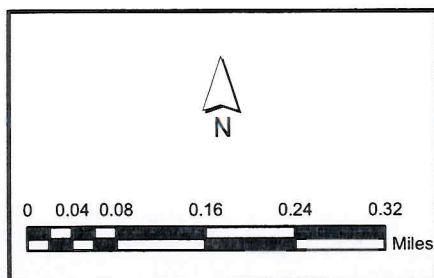
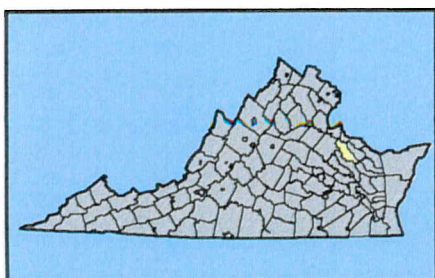
### **GIS map products**

**Gloucester County Census Tract Boundaries**





# Bray's Fork Commercial Area Essex County, Virginia





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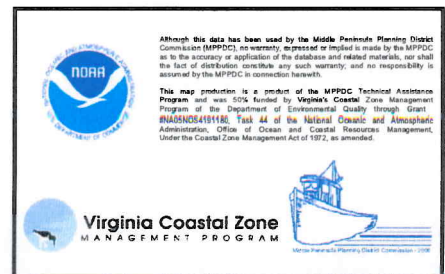
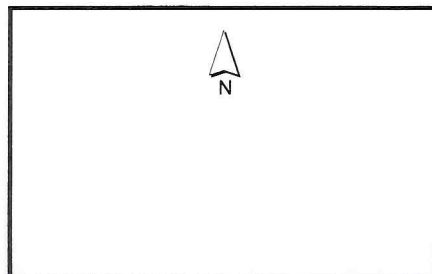
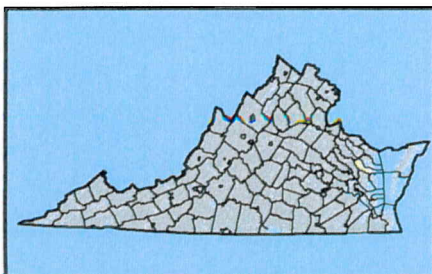

## Average Annual Daily Traffic Volume Estimates in the West Point Area 2003-2005

### Average Annual Daily Traffic Volumes in the West Point Area

Road Segment	Miles	2003	2004	2005
A	0.25	15000	16000	16000
B	0.48	15000	15000	15000
C	3.3	14000	15000	15000
D	0.14	13000	14000	14000
E	1.66	11000	12000	12000

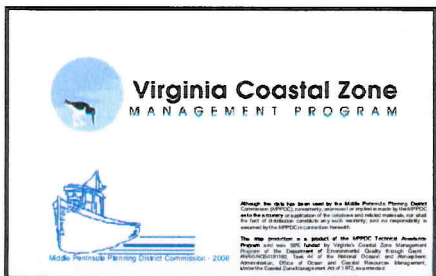
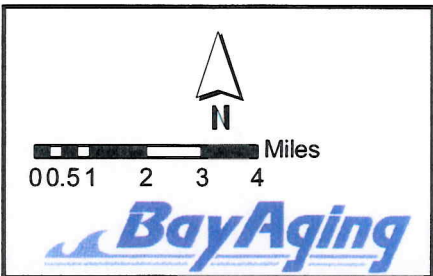
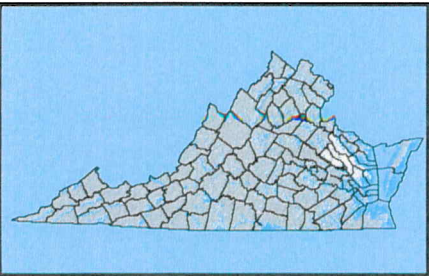
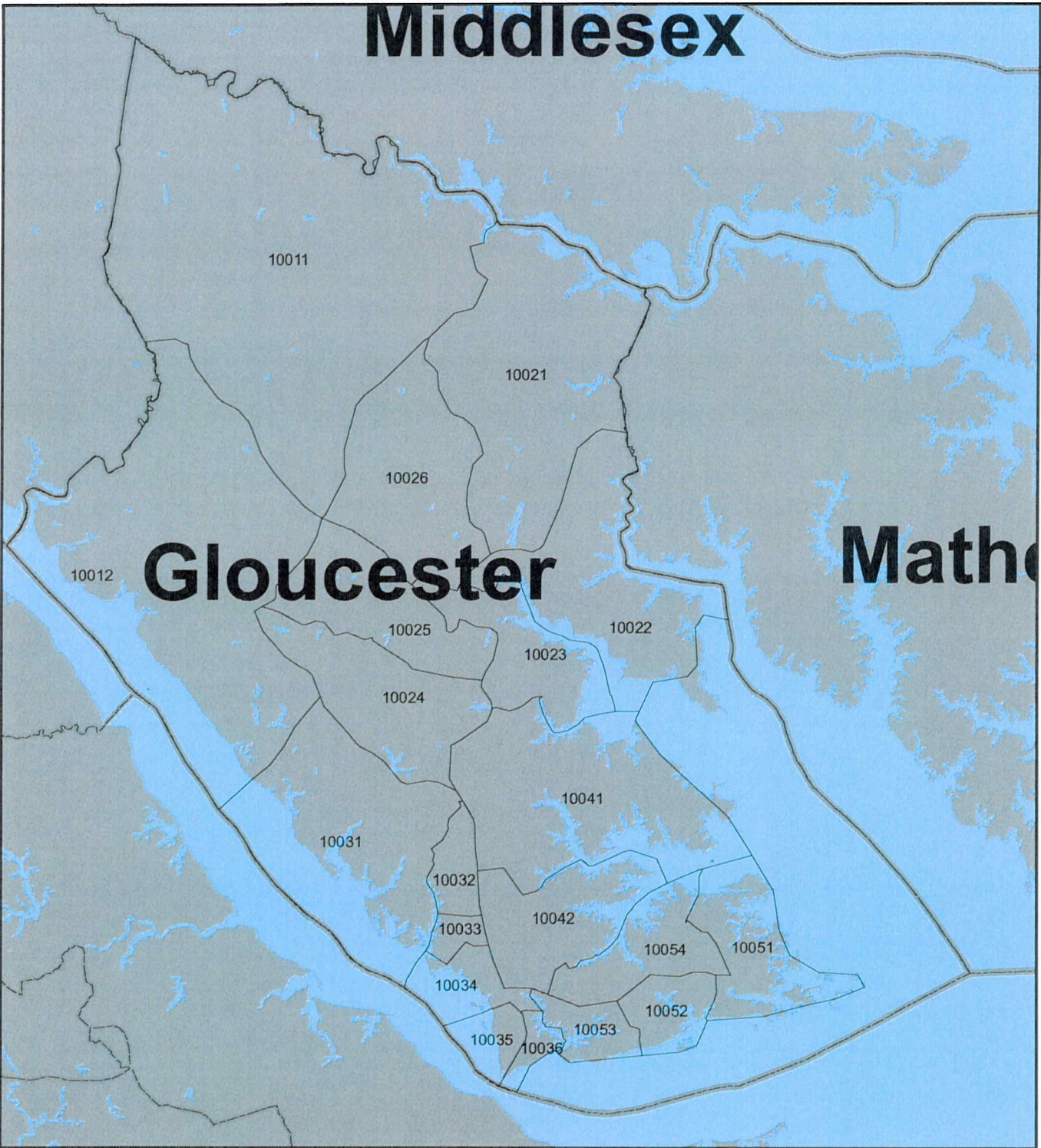
#### Road Segment Descriptions:

- A - VA Route 33/30, Town of West Point from the King William County Line to State Route 30
- B - VA Route 33, Town of West Point from State Route 30 to the King and Queen County Line
- C - VA Route 33, King and Queen County from the King William County line to 49-678
- D - VA Route 33, King and Queen County from 49-678 to State Route 14 Buena Vista Road, Shacklefords Fork
- E - VA Route 33/14, King and Queen County from State Route 14 at Shacklefords to State Route 14 Shacklefords Fork





### Gloucester County Block Group Boundaries





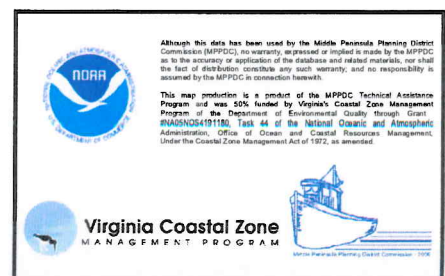
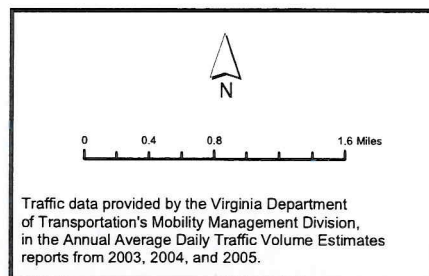
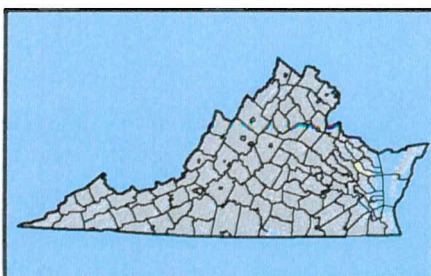
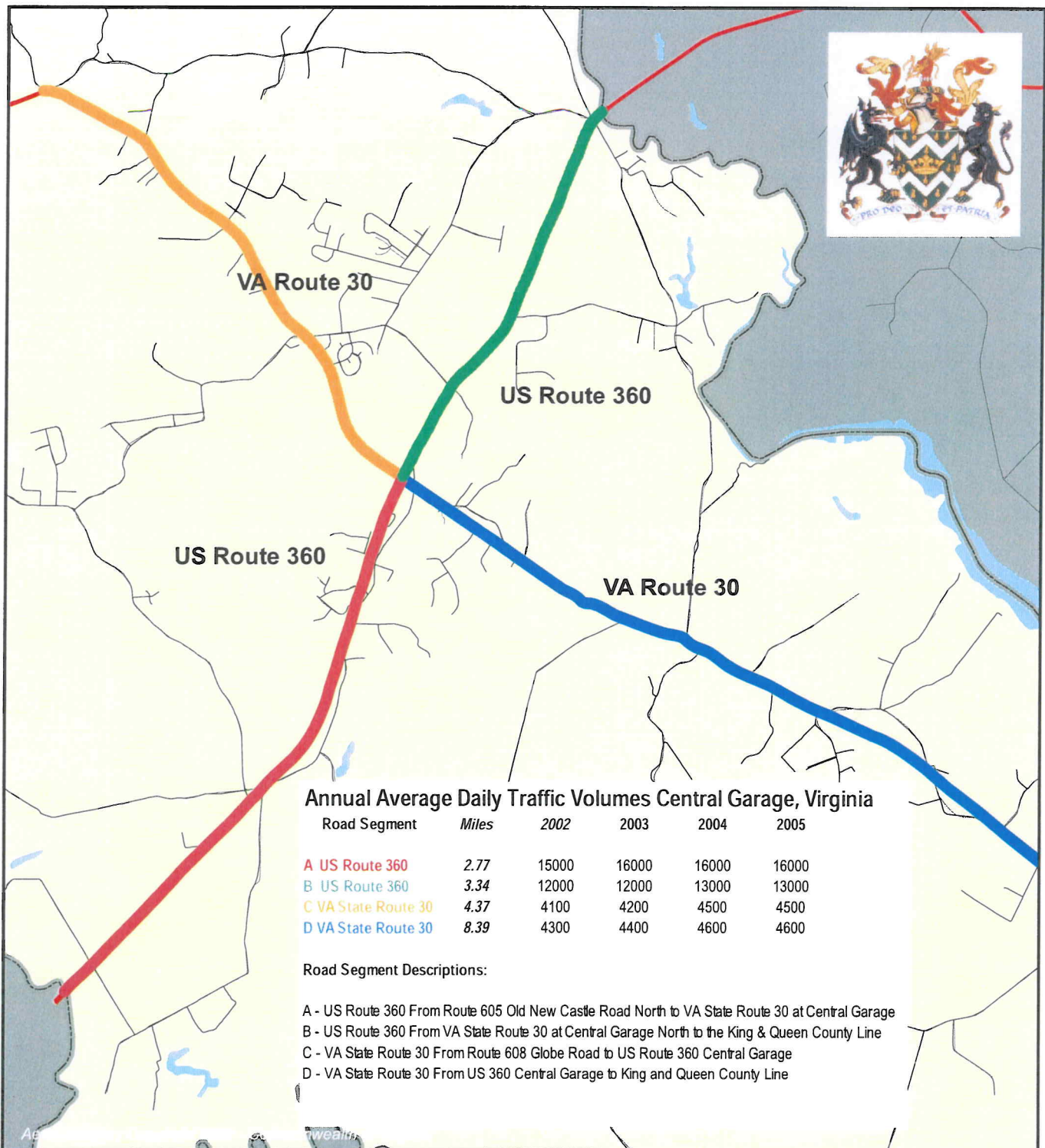








# Traffic Volumes at Central Garage Intersection in King William, Virginia





# Average Annual Daily Traffic Volume Estimates: King & Queen County Area & Town of West Point 2003-2005

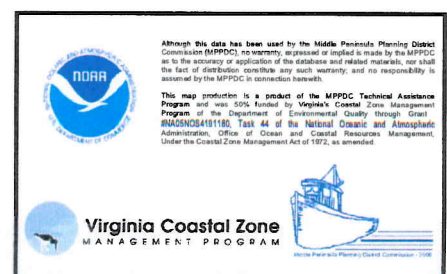
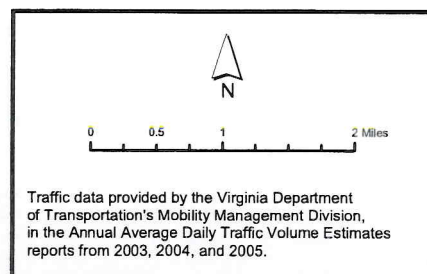
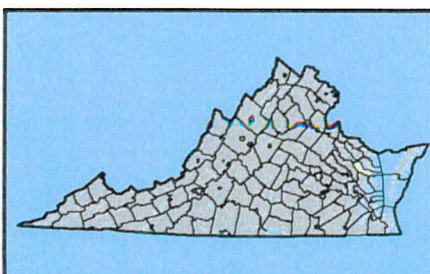
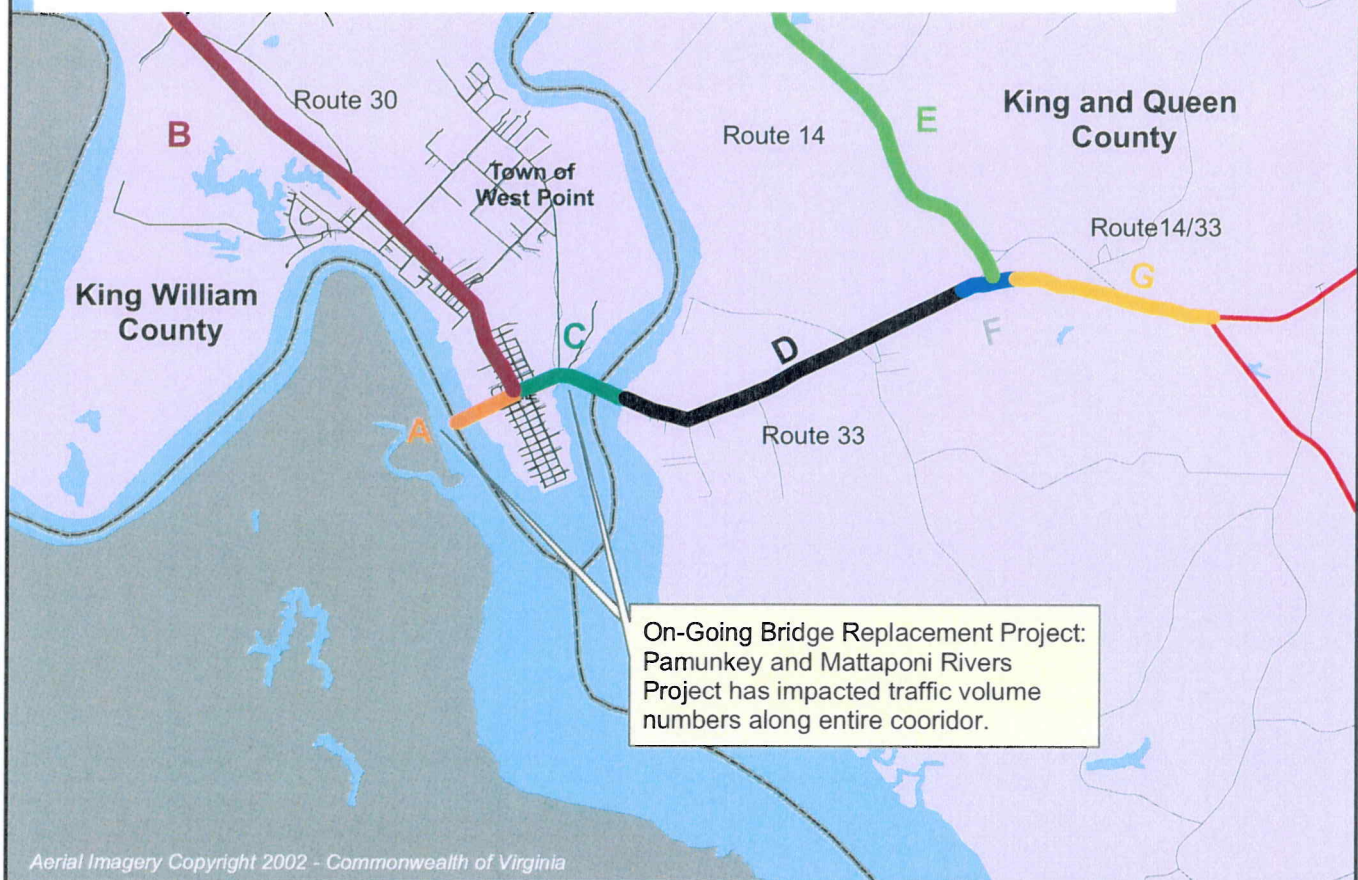
## Average Annual Daily Traffic Volumes

Road Segment	Miles	2003	2004	2005
A VA Route 33/30	0.25	15000	16000	16000
B VA Route 30	7.81	3300	3400	3400
C VA Route 33	0.48	15000	15000	15000
D VA Route 33	3.3	14000	15000	15000
E VA Route 33	0.14	13000	14000	14000
F VA Route 33/14	6.81	2200	2800	2300
G VA Route 14	1.66	11000	12000	12000



### Road Segment Descriptions:

- A - VA Route 33/30, Town of West Point from the King William County Line to State Route 30
- B - King William County - VA Route 30 from Route 632 to West Point
- C - VA Route 33, Town of West Point from State Route 30 to the King and Queen County Line
- D - VA Route 33, King and Queen County from the King William County line to 49-678
- E - VA Route 33, King and Queen County from Route 678 to State Route 14 Buena Vista Road, Shackelfords Fork
- F - VA Route 33/14, King and Queen County from State Route 14 at Shackelfords to State Route 14 Shackelfords Fork
- G - King and Queen County - VA Route 14 from Route 614 (Clifton Lane) to State Route 33 at Shackelfords

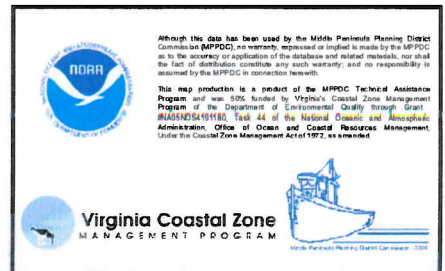
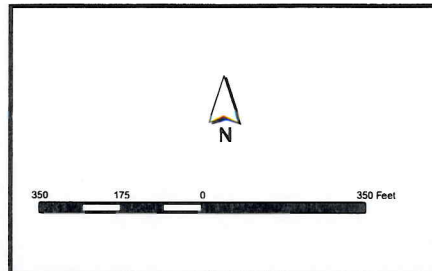
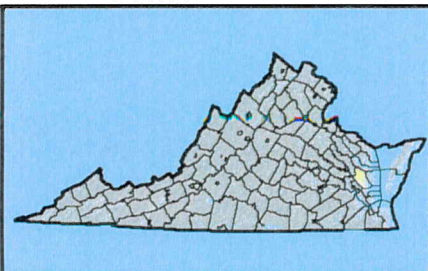




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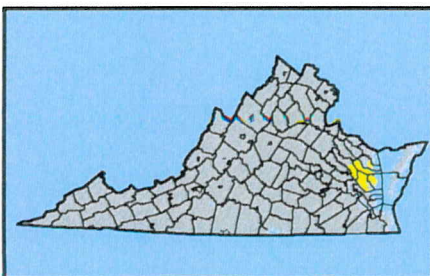
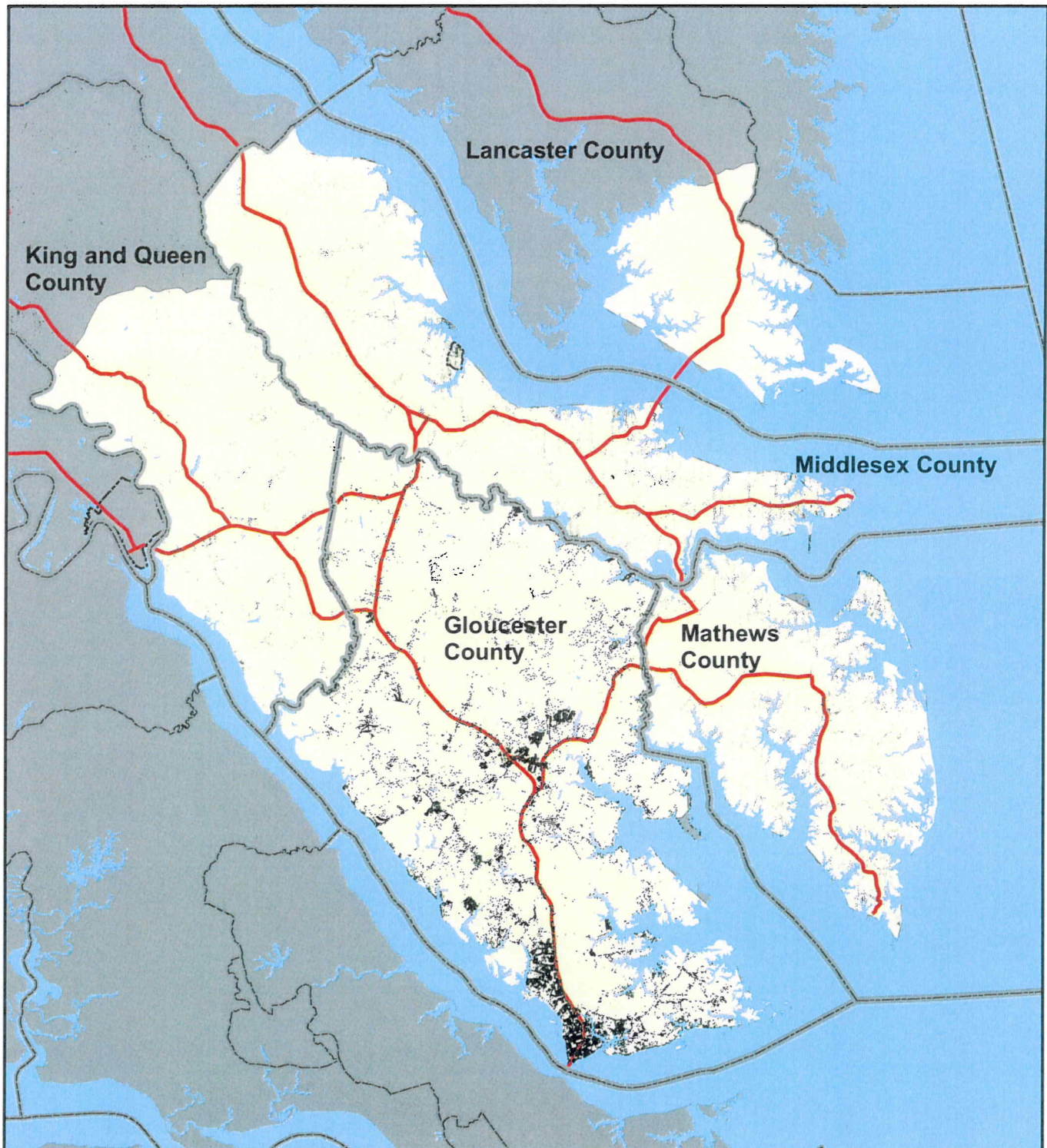


Virginia Coastal Zone  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM





## Market Study Area - Addressed Structures Among Localities



### ◆ Addressed Structures

Source: County 911 Data

Note: Data For Lancaster County  
Not Included



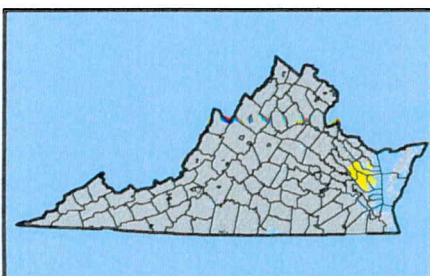
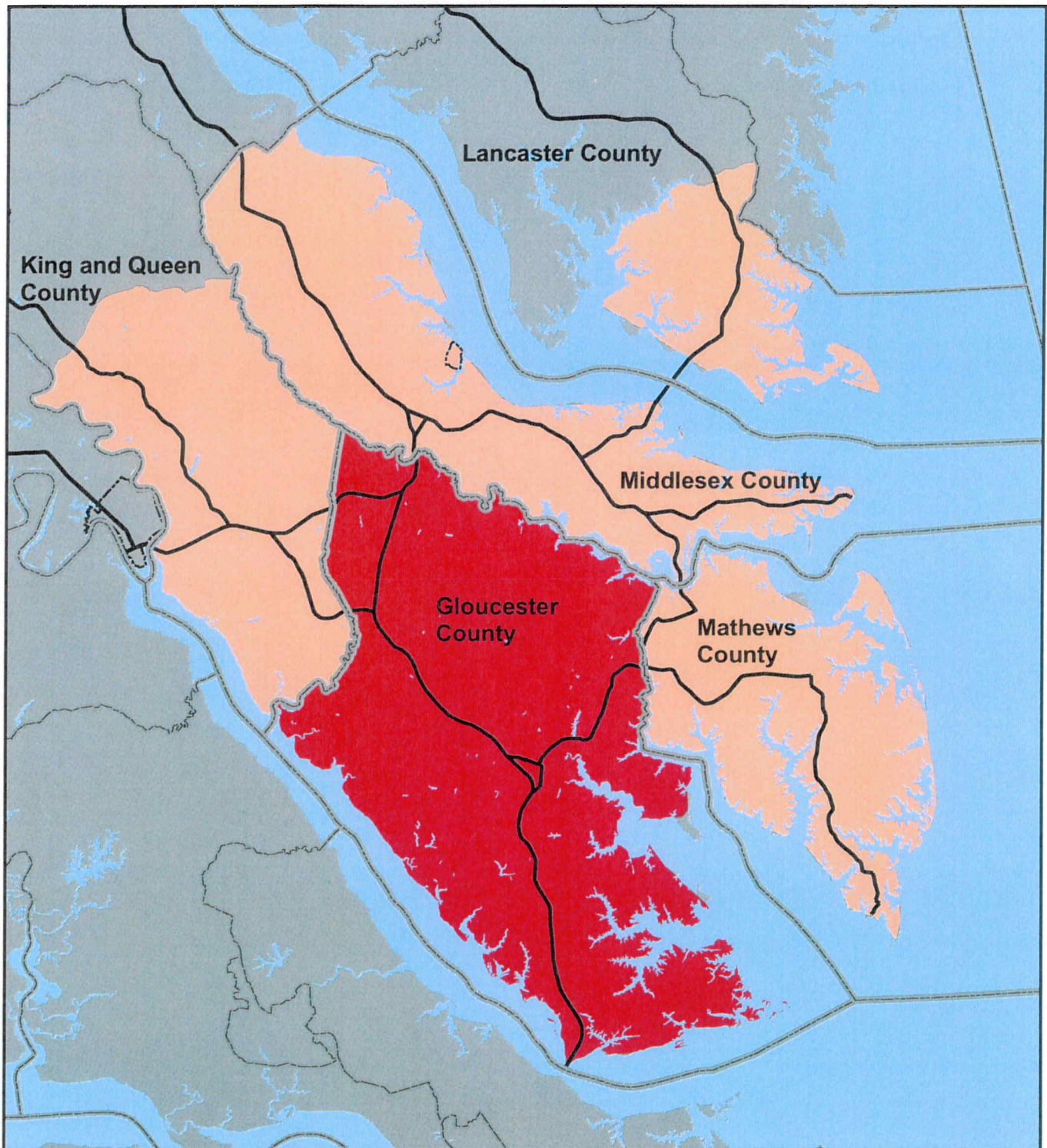
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## Market Study Area - With An Advanced Degree



### 2000 Distribution of Total Advanced Degrees

- Less Than 50%
- Over 50% - Gloucester

Source: 2000 Census



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